

Friends Corner *Express*

www.brixhammontessori.org



**BRIXHAM MONTESSORI
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

18 Brickyard Court, York, ME • 207-351-2700 • info@brixhammontessori.org

**February 2009
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

February 2
Back to School Night for
Elementary and Extended Day,
6:30pm

February 15
Returning Student Registration
Due

February 16 - 20
Winter Break

February 25
Early Release / Staff Meeting,
12:00pm

Note from the Office:

Registration Forms for
Returning Students are due **no
later than February 15th**

**The Third Year:
Putting it all Together
in the 3-6 Class**



*Conor Hoy '08 works on
his writing process*

A Note From Alica

We are staying so much warmer in our classrooms and office thanks to the folks at Horne Construction. Mick Dunn (Liz's husband) facilitated a wonderful donation to purchase and install a new door leading out to the playground. This door has helped to keep the cold air from rushing in every time we go in or out to recess, a process that can sometimes take up to three or four minutes (reminding me of the movie, "March of the Penguins")!

Speaking of penguins, have you seen our sledding hill? It may be small, but the children love it! We actually have a few moguls, which can be fun for our high flyers. We are enjoying the winter days on the playground, sledding, building snow forts, and searching for animal prints (lots of them near the compost!). Classrooms have had fun inside too, studying the winter season and many classrooms boast paper snowflakes, snowmen, and other signs of winter activity on their walls. Our new wall oven has made for some yummy classroom treats including apple pie, Chinese fortune cookies, and banana muffins. The wall oven was our school-wide holiday gift from 2007- thank you everybody!

January has been a busy month for me and Alison in the office, meeting prospective students and their families at Brixham and at the York public library where we participated in the local preschool fair. It's always so enjoyable to showcase our school... we feel extremely proud of our accomplishments and love sharing Brixham with the larger community. While we have passed the date for new applications, we strongly encourage prospective families to see our school and learn more about what it means to have a Brixham education. Pass the word. Thank you.

In this February issue of Friends Corner, I have included an article written by Ann Merritt, 3-6 teacher. The article discusses the importance of the third year (or kindergarten year) in the 3-6 program. Many of the reasons Ann describes also apply to the elementary program and the importance of their third year. I hope you find this information useful as you think about the continuum of Montessori education, and why we ask you to commit to the three year learning cycles when you first apply.

*Fondly,
Alica*

"Brixham Montessori Kindergarten"

by Ann Merritt, 3-6 Teacher

The third year in a Montessori 3-6 classroom, also known as "Extended Day," is a time of amazing growth and discovery for kindergarten-aged students and a joy to take part in for teachers. Throughout my years of teaching, I have observed the wonders of the third year and how important it is to a child's development. Extended Day is truly a culmination of the student's experience in a 3-6 classroom- a "pulling together" of the learning that takes place throughout the child's three-year cycle.

"Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight" ...BMFS WISH LIST:

Gently Used Items would be greatly appreciated

Lightweight scarfs and beanie baby dolls (for yoga) - Plastic shovels and sleds
Hallway carpet runners - Carpet sweepers - Small table lamps - Baby food jars w/lids
Wicker baskets and trays, any size - Tricycles, Hot Wheels, & other ride-on toys
Crib sheets and blankets - Dish towels and washcloths - Teacups and saucers



**BRIXHAM MONTESSORI
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

Friends Corner *Express*

www.brixhammontessori.org

18 Brickyard Court, York, ME • 207-351-2700 • info@brixhammontessori.org

**A Few More Winter
Acrostic Poems
Brixham Elementary Class**

*S*o fun
*N*atural
*O*utside
*W*hite
By Casey Segal

*P*olar Bear
*E*xciting
*N*ight
*G*iant
*U*seful
*I*ce
*N*ice
By Alyssa Saltz

*S*nowing
*N*oel
*O*vernight
*W*inter
*F*un
*L*augh
*A*wesome
*K*itten
*E*lf
By Elle Shaheen

*S*olstice
*N*utcracker
*O*ver a house
*W*inter
*O*vernight
*W*ind
*L*aughing
By Will Laster

“Brixham Montessori Kindergarten”, continued:

During the third year, the child is encouraged to explore materials in more depth (after earlier experiences developing motor and sensorial skills). The extended day children also have the opportunity to assume a leadership role in the classroom. After two years of watching the “older kids,” they now have their turn to be helpers and role models. Perhaps most importantly, the third year makes it possible for the children to continue in an environment that supports the development of concentration, self-discipline, joy of learning, and recognition of the importance of community.

At Brixham, the kindergarten/extended day program provides an opportunity for the five or six year olds to have additional time in the classroom and join other kindergarten-age students from the school. All of the third year children, from each of the 3-6 classrooms, come together each day for the afternoon extended day program. They have lunch as a group then join together at circle. Independent work time follows. The small group and older age of the class as a whole make it possible to present more involved lessons with less interruption. While the third year students can work on these more advanced materials in the morning session as well, the afternoon provides a more concentrated work period with the opportunity for more teacher direction. This year the extended day children are enjoying writing and publishing books as they work with the writing process. They are also learning about poets and writing their own poetry. More advanced math work includes: operations with the golden beads (adding and subtracting up to four digit numbers), multiplication with the bead bars, measurement activities, graphing work, and telling time. The third year children are having fun keeping track of their reading with their own individual reading logs. Map-making has also been a favorite activity. Each day ends with a group story as the teacher reads from a chapter book.

The third year in a Montessori 3-6 classroom is a fundamental part of a child’s learning experience. The completion of a this 3 year cycle both responds to the needs of a five/six year old and encourages his/her development. Most importantly, it is a fun time during which all the kindergarten-aged children develop a close-knit community and grow in self-esteem.

Contributions, Donations, and Gifts in Kind

We would like to thank the following individuals and/or businesses for their contributions and gifts in kind:

Connie Bruni
Horne Construction
Mick Dunn

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Alica Johnson-Grafe, Executive Director • Don Clark, Chair
Kate Glasson, Treasurer • Darlene Saltz, Secretary
Brad Lebo • Karen McCarthy • Stefany Shaheen**

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, please contact the Committee Chairs via email or contact BMFS at 207-351-2700 • info@brixhammontessori.org